

Internet KIDS Road Trip

The Book About Staying Safe Online



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"Andrea, hurry up! Mom and Dad want to leave in ten minutes," said Alan to his younger sister as he threw his backpack over his shoulders.

"My clothes are all packed already. I just wanted to pack my tablet and put a note on my Facebook page that we're leaving town for a few weeks," said Andrea as she called out from her room.

"Wait! Don't do that!" exclaimed Alan as he showed up in the doorway of Andrea's room.

"Don't do what?" asked Andrea. "Don't you want me to pack the tablet?"

"Sure, I do. We can play fun games together on the trip. We'll be in the car for a long time," Alan said. "That's not what I meant. You shouldn't tell people the exact dates we're going to be gone. The information might get out and somebody could break in to our house."

"But, it's just my friends. They already know that we're leaving. I've been talking about this trip for weeks," said Andrea.



"You never know who's reading stuff on the internet," said Alan. "Once a bunch of people like your post, you don't really have control over what happens to it. Hundreds of people you don't know might see it."

"I thought it was private since I just have my friends on there," said Andrea. Sometimes she felt that her older brother was overly cautious.

"Here's a rhyme my teacher Ms. Evans taught us," said Alan. He stood up tall and motioned with his arms as if he were a famous movie actor.



Setting "private" on the internet

Isn't really a safety net.

*With just a few likes, your
"private" post*

*Can be seen by strangers,
coast to coast.*

"Hmmmm...I never thought about it like that," said Andrea. She was thinking about whether she'd made posts on Facebook that she shouldn't have, but she didn't say anything.



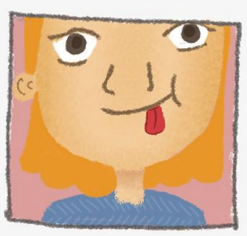
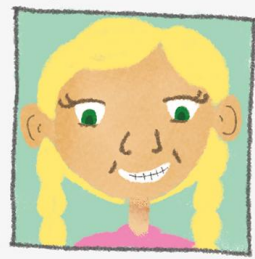
A



Andrea's Page

Caption:

My friends:



Just then, their dad came bounding up the stairs. "Are you guys ready? It's time to head out! Your mom's already in the car." Their dad seemed almost as excited about the road trip as they were. "Help your sister with her suitcases, Alan," their dad said as he looked around to make sure the windows were all locked up.

After they packed everything in the trunk, their dad went in to make a final check and lock the front door. When he got into the car, their mom asked, "Did you remember to stop the mail and the newspaper, honey?"

"Yep. I sure did!" their dad said as he started the car. "Dave said he and Michelle would keep an eye on things for us too." Dave and Michelle were their parents' close friends and neighbors.



After they had been driving for about an hour, there was some beautiful mountain scenery to the right. "What a view!" said their mom.

"What's the name of that peak?" asked Alan.

"I'm not sure, son. Why don't you look it up?" asked their dad.

"Andrea, where's the tablet?" asked Alan.

"It's right here," said Andrea as she unzipped the case she had under the seat.

Alan started to type in some keywords and he found a link that had information about the mountain range. He was just about to start reading the page aloud when a pop-up window with music came up. It said: You may have won a smart phone! Just fill out this information to receive your prize!

"Cool! We could use a new phone. The new ones have lots of fun features," said Andrea. She grabbed the tablet from Alan's hands and started to type in her name and address. "Mom, do you know my social security number by heart?" Andrea asked.



Free Phone!



"Sis, don't you recognize someone phishing when you see it?" asked Alan. "Don't fall for that!"

"I don't see anyone fishing," said Andrea as she looked out the window.

"Not fishing with an F," said Alan. "It's phishing with a PH. That's when someone tries to get your information online. You didn't win anything. They just want your info."

"But it said we won," said Andrea. She really wanted the new phone and she was disappointed. "What would they do with my information anyway?"

Alan took the tablet back and started to erase her information. "They could steal your identity. Do you see that billboard?" Alan asked as he pointed to an advertising billboard along the road. "You may as well have put a photo of yourself and all your personal data on that billboard for everyone to see. That's what you're doing when you respond to one of these phishing schemes."



"You mean that somebody else could pretend to be me?" said Andrea. She didn't like that idea at all.

"Yep!" said Alan. "Here's another rhyme Ms. Evans taught us."



When somebody's phishing,
Don't do what they're wishing.
Keep data safe every time.
Don't help with their crime.

"That's happened to me before," said their mom.

"Once I got an email at work to go to a link and change my security passwords for my bank account, but it wasn't real. It's a good thing I found out before I did anything."

"Wow! That's scary! They could have stolen all our money," said Andrea.

"Yeah, then we wouldn't have been able to go on this trip and see Pikes Peak," said Alan. "The internet is great for socializing. It's great for finding information too. You just have to be careful not to give out personal information or passwords."

"I guess I better be more careful," said Andrea.



Later that evening after a full day on the road, they checked into the hotel.

"This place is cool," said Andrea.

"This big screen TV is awesome," said Alan.

"Look! You can even get online, right on the TV screen," said Andrea.

"Your dad and I are going to have some tea out on the balcony," said their mom. "Do you want some?"

"Can we get a soda out of the mini-frig?" asked Andrea.

"Sure, have fun!" said their dad as he smiled. "Just don't eat everything in there. It'll cost a fortune."



While they were sipping their sodas and munching some cookies, Alan turned on the TV. "Let's play a game!" he said.

Andrea got a browser window up and typed in a few keywords. "Look! This one looks cool! We can build a kingdom and play against other kids who are online."

After they played for a few minutes a chat window popped up. It was another one of the players. He started asking Andrea some questions about herself. He asked her how old she was and how long she'd been playing the game.

"I guess I better not answer him. He says he's my age though," said Andrea.

She was beginning to realize that the screen was just like a mask for some people.

"Yeah, I don't think you should. He could be anyone," said Alan. "For all we know he could be in the room next door and grab you when you're out in the hall."



Potato
CHIPS



Player 1



Player 2

(1) New Message !

"Does Ms. Evans have a rhyme for this too?" asked Andrea.

"She sure does," said Alan as he cleared his throat to recite the rhyme in his best actor voice.

The internet screen keeps criminals masked.
Don't give out info, when you get asked.
Remember the person you're talking to
Might want to injure or kidnap you.

"You're scaring me, Alan," said Andrea. Suddenly the game didn't seem like fun anymore.

"I don't mean to, Sis," said Alan. "I just don't want anything to ever happen to you. I want us to have lots of fun trips together. The internet is just like a superhighway. You have to be careful wherever you're traveling."

"So it's okay to travel, as long as I'm safe along the way," said Andrea.

"Exactly!" said Alan. "Let's go ask Dad where we're headed tomorrow."

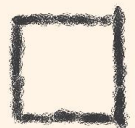


Stay Safe Online

Tips 4 Kids



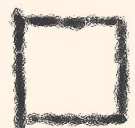
Don't post anything online that you don't agree with or don't say in real life.



Never give out any personal information, like your address, phone number or school location.



Don't post or send your photos of any kind online without checking with your parents first.



Don't share Internet sites login details with anyone.



Don't install new apps on your mobile or computer without parents permission.



Do not talk to strangers online nor agree to meet with them, ever.



If something online upsets you, talk to your parent or school teacher.



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